

## **AN ANALYSIS ON THE TRANSLATION OF DEFINITE AND INDEFINITE ENGLISH ARTICLE IN THE INDONESIAN VERSION OF A NOVEL**

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### **Abstract**

*This is a descriptive analytical study focusing in text analysis. The purpose of this study is to obtain factual information concerning the translation of English articles into Indonesian in a novel "A Child Called It". The problem of the study is how article as translated into Indonesian. The result of the analysis revealed that the numbers of English articles under study were 745, but not all of them were translated, namely 71.1%. Of these, which were translated, consisted of 15.2% definite article and 13.7% indefinite ones. The finding of this study showed that in line with the theory of articles and artikula most of these articles were not translated.*

*Key Word: translation, definite and indefinite articles.*

### **Analisa Penerjemahan Kata Sandang Tentu dan Tidak Tentu dari Bahasa Inggris ke Dalam Bahasa Indonesia**

#### **Abstrak**

Makalah ini menitik beratkan pada analisis teks. Tujuannya adalah untuk memperoleh informasi yang jelas, yang berhubungan dengan penerjemahan kata sandang dari bahasa Inggris kedalam bahasa Indonesia dalam novel 'A Child Called It'. Masalahnya adalah bagaimana menerjemahkannya kedalam bahasa Indonesia. Hasil dari analisa tersebut menunjukkan bahwa terdapat sejumlah kata sandang yang ada 745, tetapi tidak semuanya di-terjemahkan, yaitu hanya 71.1%. Dari semuanya ini yang diterjemahkan terdiri dari 15.2% kata sandang tertentu, dan 13.7% kata sandang tak tentu. Penemuan dari makalah ini menunjukkan bahwa menurut teori kata sandang dan 'artikula' (istilah dalam bahasa Indonesia), sebagian besar tidak diterjemahkan.

Kata kunci: penerjemahan, kata sandang tentu dan tidak tentu.

#### **A. INTRODUCTION**

In this study the writer wants to find out the translation of the English definite and indefinite articles into Indonesian found in "A Child Called It".

Difficulties usually appear in translating definite and indefinite articles from English into Indonesian, because the function of “*artikula*” (article) in Indonesian is different than that of article in English. The function of “*artikula*” is “kata tugas yang membatasi makna nomina” (Hasan Alwi, Sunjono Dardjowidjojo, Hans Lapoliwa, Anton M. Moeliono, 2003, p. 304), while the function of English articles is as determiners that precede noun and as a marker of definite and indefinite nouns. The difficulties mentioned above are namely the two different functions inherent in articles and “*artikula*”.

Many times it appears that many of English articles are not translated. Thus the writer is curious to know how these articles as determiners of noun are actually translated. Therefore the writer wishes to analyze these articles, particularly in the novel “*A Child Called It*”.

Base on the explanation above, the writer would like to present the problems, namely:

How are definite and indefinite articles translated into Indonesian? This problem has two sub-problems, namely:

1. Are all definite articles translated?
2. Are all indefinite articles translated?

## B. DISCUSSION

Almost each English contains articles. For five speakers, articles are not a problem while to non-English speakers, articles are difficult. Before discussing more details about translating the articles, it is better to know first about articles.

According to Huddleston and Pullum (2002).

The term article is used for the special sub-category of determinatives that provide the most basic expression of definiteness and indefiniteness. In

this section we examine in turn the two articles 'the' and 'a', explaining what is meant by contrast between definite and indefinite NPs.

The definite article 'the'

The definite 'the' is the most basic indicator of definiteness. It is illustrated in (1), which shows that it is compatible all type of common noun: count singular, count plural, and non count.

(1) Bring me (the ladder / ladders / cement)!

Use of the definite article here indicated that I expect you to be able to identify the referent – the individual the ladder; the set of ladders, the quantity of cement that I am referring to. (p. 368).

The definite article 'a'

The definite article 'a' is the most basic indicator noun of indefiniteness for singular count nouns. Its incompatibility with plural 's' is due to its historical origin as an unstressed form of the numeral one. The indefinite article is then unstressed in connected speech, but has a liaison form 'an'.

With indefinite NPs the addressee is not being expected to be able to identify anything. NPs headed by singular count nouns permit a direct contrast between indefinite 'a' and definite 'the'

a. Bring me a ladder

b. Bring me the ladder

One possible scenario for the use of 'a' is that there are two or more ladders in your field of vision, especially ones differing in significant ways, such as size. (p. 371).

Example:

1. There are many students in the class, but the student sitting next to you is my nephew.
2. I saw the student sitting in the first row, the student is my cousin.

In example no. 1, the word students in the first part of the sentence is still general, but the word students mentioned in the first part of the sentence, that is why the articles 'the' is used.

In example no. 2, the word student refers to anyone, that is why the article ‘a’ is used, in the second part, the word student refers to the student mentioned previously, that is why the article ‘the’ is used.

Referring to Biber, Johanson, Leech, Conrad, Edward Finegan (1999).

The articles.

The definite and the indefinite article are the most common and most basic of the determiners. Both articles take a different spoken form when the following word begins with a vowel:

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>a house</i>                  | <i>an hour</i>  |
| <i>a Member of Parliament</i>   | <i>an MP</i>    |
| <i>the house</i>                | <i>the hour</i> |
| <i>the Member of Parliament</i> | <i>the MP</i>   |

In some cases, the written form can be misleading. Thus ‘a’ is used before words like *union* and *university*, which are pronounced with an initial (j), while an is found before words with initial silent h, such as *heir*, *honest*, *honour (able)*, *hour*.

There is variation in the form of the indefinite article before some words spelled with an initial h in an unstressed syllable. For example, in the LSWE Corpus the word history is always used with a, but historical takes a and an with about equal frequency.

The indefinite article.

The indefinite article is used with singular countable nouns. It narrows down the reference of the following noun to a single member of a class and is often used to introduce a new specific entity in discourse. Subsequent references generally take the form of definite noun phrases or personal pronouns, as shown in the following example:

1. *A cat (1) was a victim of a cruel attack when she (1) was not in the neck by a pellet (2). The tortoiseshell cat (1) was found wounded and frightened in Grangetown, Middlesbrough, and brought to an animal sanctuary. The pellet (2) went right through the cat's (1) neck and came out the other side, leaving a gaping wound.* (News) <subscripts indicate co-referential noun phrase>

The indefinite article can also be used in contexts where the noun phrase does not refer to any specific individual. Compare:

1. *I'm looking for a millionaire, she says, but I don't see many around – (CONV)*
2. *"I feel terrible. I need a friend," (FICT)*
3. *Police are looking for a scruffy man aged 17 to 21 (NEWS).*

In 2 and 3 the reference is to a non – specific new entity, while 4 refer to a particular newly introduced entity (cf. The use of *certain*, 4.4.6D).

The indefinite article can also serve, as in 5, to classify an entity, or it can be used generally 6 to express what is typical of any member of a class.

1. *My husband is a doctor. (FICT)*
2. *A doctor is not better than his patient. (FICT) (p.260)*

In the sentence no.5 a doctor indicates the classification of an entity because there is explanation "my husband" that refers to an individual person

In the sentence no. 6 A doctor points out generic (the type of any member of a class because there is no explanation that refers to individual person or thing. It means the reference of a whole class.

### The definite article

The definite article combines with both countable and uncountable nouns. It is specific that the referent of the noun phrase is assumed to be known to the speaker and the address. The knowledge could be based on the preceding text, in which case we speak of anaphoric reference:

1. A doctor was allowed to carry on working after telling fellow general practitioners he had contracted Aids. Health officials revealed yesterday.  
 <...> The doctor, who died last summer, broke health service guidelines  
 <...> (NEWS)

In many cases, though, the connection is inferred rather than signaled by repetition, and we speak of indirect anaphoric reference:

1. *The Mercedes took a hard bounce from a pothole. "Christ" said Sherman, "I didn't even see that." He leaned forward over the steering wheel. The headlights shot across the concrete columns in a delirium.* (FICT)
2. *He found her blue Ford Escort in her car park. The vehicle was locked and the lights were off* (FICT)

In both 2 and 3, once has been introduced, it is possible to refer to things connected with cars as contextually given (e.g. *the steering wheel, the light*). In other words, the use of the definite article is dependent partly upon the preceding text and partly general pragmatic knowledge. Example 3 also shows how a subsequent reference to the same entity may take the form of a semantically related word with definite reference (*the vehicle*). (pp. 264-264).

In the example no. 3. The vehicle and the lights are combination of countable and uncountable nouns of the definite article. The word vehicle is included uncountable nouns because without ending "s" and there is explanation "was" which means singular. The characteristic of uncountable nouns is not be able to be made plural. That is why the use of to be is "was". The word 'lights' is

included countable nouns because that word is ending with 's' and there is explanation 'were' which means plural. Countable nouns can be made plural.

Quirck, Greenbaum, Leech, Svartvik (1985) stated that 'The most common and typical central determiners are the definite and indefinite articles, 'the' and 'a/an' respectively'

Furthermore he also made a table as follow:

Use of the articles with count and non count noun.

|          |            | Count     | Non Count     |
|----------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| Singular | Definite   | The book  | The furniture |
|          | Indefinite | A book    | Furniture     |
| Plural   | Definite   | The books |               |
|          | Indefinite | Books     |               |

(p.253).

Example:

1. He only wants the books with a clean cover.
2. He has a book
3. He does not have a special room for the furniture.
4. His house is still empty. There is no furniture to decorate it.
5. He only wants the books with clean covers.
6. He has many books.

Explanation:

1. The word 'book' in sentence 1 indicates definite singular countable noun, because there is the explanation 'with a clean cover'; therefore the article 'the' is used.
2. The word 'book' in sentence 2 indicates indefinite singular countable noun, because it is any book. That is why the article 'a' is used.

3. The word 'furniture' in sentence 3 indicates definite singular non-countable noun, because there is explanation 'special room'; therefore the article 'the' is used.
4. The word 'furniture' in sentence 4 indicates indefinite singular non-countable noun; because it is any furniture and not countable; therefore the article 'a' is not used.
5. The word 'book' in sentence 5 indicates definite plural countable noun, because there is the explanation 'with clean covers' and there is more than one book.
6. The word 'books' in sentence 6 indicates indefinite plural countable noun, because they are any books and there is more than one book.

Quirck, Greenbaum, Leech, Svartvik's (1985) explanation concerning the definite articles is as follow:

The definite article '*the*' is used to mark the phrase it introduces as definite, *i.e.* as 'referring to something which can be identified uniquely in the contextual or general knowledge shared by speaker and hearer'. The 'something' referred to may be any kind of noun phrase referent; a person (*the girrl*), a group of people (*the fireman*), an object (*the lamp*), a group of objects (*the roses*), an abstraction (*the plan*), a group of abstractions (*the fears*), etc. Moreover, the noun determined by '*the*' may have pre-or post modification, by which the 'something' identified by '*the*' may be more precisely specified, *e.g.*: the '*tall*' lamp, the lamp on *the table*. (p. 265).

Use of the indefinite article according to Quirck, Greenbaum, Leech, Svartvik's (1985).

The indefinite article is notionally the unmarked article in the sense that it is used (for singular count nouns) where the conditions for the use of 'the' do not obtain. That is, '*a/an*' x will be used where the reference of x is not uniquely identifiable in the shared knowledge of speaker and hearer. Hence '*a/an*' is



typically used when the referent has not been mentioned before, and is assumed to be unfamiliar to the speaker or hearer. (p. 272).

JISC (1998) explain that ‘the definite article ‘the’ and the indefinite article ‘a/an’ are the most common central determiners’ (p.2). JISC’s opinion concerning the definite and indefinite article is similar to Quirck, Greenbaum, Leech, Svrtvik’s (1985) as well Huddleston and Pullum, and Biber, Johansson, Leech, Conrad, Edward Finegan.

Since the researcher is studying the translation from English into Indonesia, it is better to look for some theories from the Indonesian language. In the dictionary ‘*Inggris – Indonesia*’ by Echols and Hassan Shadily (1975), it is stated that the term articles mean, “kata sandang” (p. 39).

According to Gory Keraf (1991).

Artikula atau kata sandang, dimasukkan sebagai sub-kelas kata benda, karena ia merupakan bagian dari kata yang berfungsi sebagai penentu benda tersebut.

Artikula atau kata sandang mengandung fungsi-fungsi sebagai berikut:

1. Menentukan kata betukan kata benda;
2. Menominalkan suatu kata: *yang besar, yang kaya, yang miskin* dan sebagainya.

Kata-kata sandang yang umum dalam bahasa Indonesia adalah: yang, si, sang, hang dan dang. Kata sang, hang, dan dang sering digunakan dalam kesusasteraan lama; sekarang kurang digunakan lagi, kecuali sang, yang kadang-kadang untuk mengagungkan, kadang-kadang untuk menyatakan ejekan (p. 69).

The translation of the word article from the dictionary by Echols and Hassan Shadily is ‘kata sandang’, Meanwhile Gorys Keraf uses the term ‘kata

sandang' which is exchangeable with 'artikula'. In brief, it can be said that the term of the English article can be translated into artikula or 'kata sandang'.

Hasan alwi, Sunjono Dardjowidjojo, Hans Lapoliwa, Anton M. Muliono (1998) stated that 'Fungsi artikula adalah untuk membatasi makna nomina (p. 304)

Example:

'Tak sampai hatiku melihat si miskin mengambil makanan di tumpukan sampah itu'. (Hasan Alwi, Sujono Dardjowidjojo, Hans Lapoliwa, Anton M. Muliono. 2003, p. 306).

Explanation:

In the above sentence the 'article si' refers to one person. Thus, the word 'miskin' has the function of a noun. So it means the 'artikula' si defines the noun 'miskin'.

Referring to St. Takdir Alisahbana (1982)

Dalam bahasa Indonesia ada beberapa perkataan yang dapat kita masukkan ke dalam (sic) kata sandang atau artikel, yaitu kata yang menentukan kata benda. Dalam kitab 2 (sic) lama perkataan 'itu' dan 'ini' dipakai sebagai kata sandang. Tetapi dalam waktu yang kemudian ini kelihatan artinya lebih tegas, yaitu menjadi kata penunjuk. (p. 88).

According to Marcella Frank (1972): 'The chief structural function of article is as determiners that precede nouns. The chief semantic function of article is to mark nouns definite or indefinite' (p. 125). In line with Quirk (1985) 'the article are typical and determiners of noun' (p. 253).

In brief, the function of the articles in English and Indonesian is the same, i.e. to determine a noun or as determiner as stated by Gorys Keraf (p. 12) and St.

Takdir Alisahbana (p. 13) and Hasan Alwi, Sujono Darmowidjojo, Hans Lapoliwa, Anton M. Muliono (pp. 12-13).

After discussing the articles, the researcher is describing some theories of translation.

Peter Newmark (1988) said that: 'Translation is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text' (p.5).

Translation is not transferring word by word or sentence by sentence the text but interpreting the message of the writer without deviating from the original purpose.

J. C. Catford (1965) define that translation was: the replacement of textual material in one language (source language-SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL-target language)' (p. 20).

In the process of translation, there are two languages of which each has own culture and society differences.

Principles of translation according to Allan Duff (1989).

1. Meaning. The translation should reflect accurately the meaning of the original text. Nothing should be arbitrarily added or removed, through occasionally part of the meaning can be 'transposed'.
2. Source language influence. One of the most frequent criticisms of translation is that 'it doesn't sound natural'. (pp. 10-11)

Translation should reproduce the whole meaning of the text, without any addition all removal of word or sentences. The result of the translation should not be awkward and clumsy.

Hohulin in Nida (1982) states ‘One Definition of a Dynamic Equivalent is the closest natural equivalent to the source-language message’.

The translation should be natural without neglecting lexical and grammatical equivalence from the source language (SL).

Hohulin in Beekman and Callow (1982) states:

Dynamic equivalence translation are also known or referred to as idiomatic translation. In an idiomatic translation the translator seeks to convey to the resource language reader in the meaning of the original by using the natural grammatical and lexical forms of the resources language (p. 15).

Thus the other word, the translation should be real and understandable by using equivalence of vocabulary and grammatical forms of the resources language.

The process of translation begins by reading the source text, then analyzing it involving both grammatical and semantic aspects of the text, next it is essential that the results of the analysis be transferred from the source language to the target language.

The message after having transferred it from the source language to the target language should be re structured (Nida and Taber, 1982, pp. 99-162).

For example:

English : The grey haired secretary greets me with a smile.

Indonesia : Ibu sekretaris di ruang itu menyambutku dengan sebuah senyuman.

After reading, analyzing, and transferring the English sentence, the translation becomes ....’sebuah senyuman’ (mention above). It is not natural to say ‘sebuah senyuman’ in that context, that is why it should be restructured so that

it becomes more natural: ‘Ibu sekertaris di ruang itu menyambutku dengan senyuman’.

### C. CONCLUSION

This study is conducted to analyze the translation of English articles into Indonesian. This study only concern in one novel. Thus, this is a documentary analysis focusing on analysing text from novels. The technique employed is descriptive analytical. The problem of this study is how articles are translated into Indonesian.

From the analysis can be concluded that most of the definite and indefinite articles are not translated. It is caused by the different function between “artikula” in Indonesian language and English articles.

The results of the study reveal that, the total number of the definite articles is 15.2% translated. Most of the translations of the articles are ‘itu’, only one is translated into Si. Concerning the definite articles percentage is 13.7%. These articles are translated. They are translated into “se, sebuah, seorang, sebatang, secuil, sepotong, sekadar”, and “sekelompok”. The small percentage of the translated articles is in accordance with the theories of articles which indicate, that the use of English articles is different from that in Indonesian ‘artikula’

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